



ROB SWEARINGEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 34th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Office: (608) 266-7141
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0034
Rep.Swearingen@legis.wi.gov

Room 19 North
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROB SWEARINGEN

JANUARY, 29 2015
(608) 266-7141

Governor's Budget Proposals to Help Rural Schools

Madison, WI – Today, Rep. Rob Swearingen (R - Rhinelander), the former chairman of the Speaker's Task Force on Rural Schools, released the following statement after Governor Scott Walker released his plan to *Grow the Economy in Rural Wisconsin*.

The Governor's plan focuses on transforming education, growing the economy, developing the workforce, investing in infrastructure, and reforming healthcare. Among the proposals, the Governor included six recommendations from the Speaker's Task Force on Rural Schools.

"I am very encouraged that the Governor included a number of my recommendations from the task force report last session. It is clear that Republicans are committed to helping Wisconsin's rural economy, as well as our small rural schools."

The Governor included the following task force recommendations in his *Grow the Economy in Rural Wisconsin Plan*:

- Allow school districts to share certain grades without consolidation
- Encourage internet providers to extend high-speed internet access throughout Wisconsin
- Create a new version of the TEACH program
- Increase funding for transportation aid
- Increase funding for sparsity aid
- Allow flexibility in teacher licensing

"I would like thank the Governor, Speaker Vos, and all members of the task force for their hard work and dedication," said Rep. Swearingen. ***"I will continue to fight for my rural schools in the Greater Northwoods."***

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